

HOUSE RESOLUTION 43

By Hazlewood

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Valerie C. Rutledge  
on being named a 2015 Woman of Distinction.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Valerie C. Rutledge is one such estimable individual, who has been named a 2015 Woman of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious honor is given to women who have distinguished themselves through their professional, civic, and volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, after earning her Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC), Mrs. Rutledge earned her doctoral degree at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She continued to serve and teach at UTC for more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, with a career spanning four decades, Valerie Rutledge taught English, Latin, and drama in the Hamilton County School District. In 1995, she joined the UTC faculty and later became the director of the School of Education and the dean of the College of Health, Education, and Professional Studies; in addition, she holds the Mildred Routt Distinguished Teaching Professorship; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mrs. Rutledge was recognized as the Hamilton County Teacher of the Year, Southeast Tennessee, and the Tennessee High School Teacher of the Year in 1986; and

WHEREAS, the first woman elected to lead the Hamilton County Republican Party, Mrs. Rutledge took a leave of absence from teaching to run her father's campaign for the Republican nomination for governor of Tennessee from 1993 to 1994; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Mrs. Rutledge was appointed by Governor Don Sundquist to a nine-year term on the Tennessee State Board of Education to represent the Third Congressional District; and

WHEREAS, Valerie Rutledge is a member of Alpha Delta Kappa International Teachers Sorority, a member of the boards of Siskin Children's Institute and Siskin Rehabilitation Hospital, and she serves on the board of the Principal Leadership Academy; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to giving back to the community, Mrs. Rutledge works with Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge to help raise funds to send area high school students to Pennsylvania to learn firsthand about the government and the principles upon which this country was founded; and

WHEREAS, she is perhaps most appreciative of the love and support she shares with her husband, Jack; their children, Dan, Cindy, and Ashley; their grandchildren, Bailey, Emily, and Tyler; and their great-granddaughter, Taylor; and

WHEREAS, epitomizing the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, Valerie C. Rutledge takes her place among the many noble citizens who have earned Tennessee the nickname of the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as Valerie Rutledge, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Valerie C. Rutledge on being named a 2015 Woman of Distinction, thank her for all

she has done to make her community and this State a better place to live and work, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.